

**GRADUATION - IMSA CHARTER CLASS
ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLASS
JUNE 10, 1989**

Thank you, Mr. Court.

Three years ago when we were breaking ground for the construction of our first two dormitories, I said it was fitting and, indeed, serendipitous that the Academy should be located in Aurora, because the word Aurora is Latin for dawn.

In a very real sense, we are again at the dawn of an institution that will continue to evolve into something quite extraordinary for education in Illinois.

It is interesting that Websters dictionary defines dawn in two distinct ways...

- * the first is, "to begin to appear or develop,"**
- * the second, which has the greater significance for us today, is, "to begin to be perceived or understood."**

I believe this is what is now occurring for the Academy.

People across Illinois, and our country, are beginning to understand the tremendous educational, technological, and scientific impact that the Academy can make in Illinois, and indeed our nation.

As Carl Sagan said, "The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is a gift from the people of Illinois to the human future."

very special But these young people have also given us a gift; ^{*crafted a legacy -*} their youthful energy, tremendous enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, seriousness of purpose, and significant and admirable accomplishments, have enhanced us all, and we are enriched by having shared a part of their lives.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, and with the gratitude of our faculty and staff, our parents, the friends who are gathered here, and our shareholders in the state of Illinois, I accept the members of the Charter Class of 1989, and bestow upon them the diploma and commencement medallion of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

Congratulations!